

APPENDICE.

RAPPORT DE L'OFFICIER DE SANTÉ POUR 1915.

RAPPORT DE L'OFFICIER DE SANTÉ POUR 1915.

Lettre de M. le Président du Comité.

States Office, Guernsey, 18th July, 1916.

SIR,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1915, with the request that it may be printed as an Appendix to the “Billet d’État,” and that a certain number of copies (say 100) be struck off for distribution in the usual way.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

G. H. LE MOTTÉE,

President, Board of Health.

E. C. Ozanne, Esq., Bailiff,
and President of the States of Guernsey.

GUERNSEY—1915.

Area in statute acres—15,654.

Area in square miles—24·5.

POPULATION.—Males — 21,490.

Females—19,510.

— 41,000.

HOUSES.—Inhabited—9,710.

Uninhabited—427.

Constructing—27.

Density of Population per Acre—2·6.

„ „ per square mile—1,673.

Average number of Inhabitants per house—4·2

Birth rate per 1,000 = 19·1

Average previous 10 years—24·1.

Death rate per 1,000 = 14·8.

Average previous 10 years—14·0.

Rainfall—40·35 inches.

Average Rainfall—36·6 inches.

Sunshine—1,800 hours.

Sunshine average—1,897 hours.

EXPORTS OF STONE AND PRODUCE :

Stone—294,640 tons.

Flowers—2,286 tons.

Tomatoes—15,267 tons.

Grapes—2,549 tons.

Other Fruit—242 tons.

Vegetables—3,342 tons.

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

POPULATION.

It is a difficult matter to make the annual estimate of the population of Guernsey for 1915, and this difficulty will become greater each year until in due course a fresh census be taken.

The number of troops here has varied greatly from time to time, but it has naturally been much less than during the previous year.

Visitors have only arrived in small numbers, as might be expected under the present conditions.

I have reckoned the population in round numbers as 41,000, a decrease of 1,000 during the year, and 850 below the figures of the census in April, 1911. Some of the smaller country parishes will probably shew slight increase in 1915, the decreases being largely in the Town, St. Sampson's and the Vale parishes, where recruiting has chiefly taken place. In 1915 the number of men enlisting into the Army was 1,076, and 52 men and boys joined the Royal Navy.

BIRTHS.

The births during the year numbered 784, and the numbers of male and female births were exactly the same, viz., 392, a rate of 19.1. We can hardly wonder that under the present circumstances this number is 96 below that of 1914, which was the lowest recorded previously.

The average for the past ten years was 1,001, and the rate 24.1.

The excess of male births over female is usually about 4 per cent., but the mortality amongst the males in the first year of life is always greater. In time of war it has often been noticed that the proportion of male births is higher than in the piping times of peace—evidently an effort of nature to adjust the balance.

This, however, appears to be true only when the population as a whole is suffering from privation, and the horrors of war, which are inseparable with a campaign being carried on, occur in their midst.

As our community has fortunately not only escaped such a dread experience but been exceptionally prosperous, this may account for there having been fewer male births than the average. The Greffe Office informs me that the number of illegitimate births was 40, equal to a rate of 5.1 per 1,000.

This is considerably higher than the average of the five previous years, 3.7, but it is what might have been expected under the abnormal conditions which now prevail. I am sure, however, that these figures are lower than the actual ones, as at present there is no penalty for false declarations to the Registrars, although the proposed new law provides for a heavy penalty for such an offence.

In 1915 the birth rate in England and Wales was 21.9; in London, 22.6; the great towns, 22.8; the smaller towns, 21.6; and the country, less the 244 towns, 20.7, Jersey, 15.8. The influence of density of population upon the birth-rate follows the usual course, namely, that it is lower in the least populated districts.

Table I.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.		DEATHS AT ALL AGES.	
		Number.	Rate per 1,000.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 registered.	Number.	Rate per 1,000.
Column ...	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1905.....	40,884	1,129	27.6	155	135.0	644	15.7
1906.....	40,990	1,112	27.1	154	138.4	588	14.3
1907.....	41,174	1,068	25.9	123	115.1	606	14.8
1908.....	41,350	1,005	24.3	131	131.0	591	14.3
1909.....	41,524	1,013	24.3	111	109.6	521	12.5
1910.....	41,670	989	23.7	107	107.0	549	13.1
1911.....	41,854	946	22.6	197	208.0	734	17.4
1912.....	41,854	983	23.5	101	102.7	552	13.1
1913	41,854	887	21.2	101	113.8	550	13.1
1914.....	42,000	880	20.9	81	92	498	11.8
Averages for ten years, 1905-1914.		41,515	1,001	24.1	126	125.2	583
							14.0
1915.....	41,000	784	19.1	113	144	607	14.8

APPENDICE.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths was 607, a rate of 14.8 per 1,000.

This is somewhat higher than the average of the preceding ten years, which was 14, and considerably higher than 1914, which was 11.8, the lowest ever recorded.

It is satisfactory, however, to find it so much lower than the first figures noted in these reports, the ten years between 1890 and 1899, when the rate was 18.6.

I reproduce a table from the last report, showing the percentage of deaths at various age periods, from which it will be seen that, with the exception of 1914, the figures for 1915 compare favourably with those of previous years, the percentage of inevitable deaths, those from old age, showing a slight increase, whilst those between 25 and 65 years are lower than any.

1900—1915.

Years.	Under					Under		Over					
	1 year.	1-5.	5-15.	15-25.	25 years.	25-65.	65 years.						
1900—1904.....	24	...	9	...	4	...	5	...	42	...	27	...	30
1905—1909.....	22.3	...	8	...	3	...	4.6	...	38	...	28	...	33
1910—1914.....	20.2	...	7.2	...	3.3	...	3.8	...	34.5	...	27.8	...	37.2
1914.....	16.2	...	3.6	...	2.4	...	4.6	...	26.8	...	32	...	41.2
1915.....	18.6	...	6.2	...	3.2	...	3.6	...	31.6	...	26.6	...	41.5

The number of deaths of persons 80 years of age and over was 108, or 18 per cent. of the total. Deaths in public institutions were as follows:—

King Edward Sanatorium	...	...	...	...	2
Victoria Cottage Hospital	...	...	...	...	7
Town Hospital	...	...	...	...	51
Town Asylum	...	...	...	...	3
Castel Hospital	...	...	...	...	26
Castel Asylum	...	...	...	...	0

The death rates for the various parishes will be found in Table III., but I am afraid that my estimate of the population of each parish being rather in the light of conjecture, that they may not be as accurate as I would wish. The crude death rates of England and Wales for 1915 are as follows: England and Wales 15.1, the great towns 15.8, London 16.1, the smaller towns 14.0, and the country less the towns 14.8.

These rates are all higher than those registered in 1914, as are ours.

I have compared the commoner causes of death with those of previous years by means of the Table as contained in former reports.

AVERAGE NUMBER OF DEATHS.

	1906-1913.	1914.	1915.
Measles	8·3	1	0
Whooping Cough	8·1	0	7
Epidemic Enteritis	22·1	5	16
Diphtheria	6·3	3	0
Senile Decay	69·8	60	95
Cancer	47·1 ..	46	56
Broncho Pneumonia	8·8	6	16
Pneumonia	19·6	25	20
Heart Disease	66·1	62	63
Apoplexy	28·8	28	27
Tuberculosis, other than Phthisis	14·1	13	10
Phthisis...	37 ..	34	44

The times of strain and trouble in which we have lived seem to have been particularly fatal to old people, as the deaths from senile decay are so greatly above the average.

The Registrar-General has stated that the deaths of those who have fallen in the Country's service will be registered separately if they were members of the regular Army and Navy, but if they belonged to these services in a temporary capacity, that their deaths would be registered at the place of their former domicile.

I have not up to the present received any list of such deaths, but I hear from an unofficial source that to the end of the year 144 men belonging to, or connected with, the Island had lost their lives in the war.

The death rate of Jersey for the year was 17·2.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

There were 113 deaths of children under the age of one year during 1915, which is equal to a rate of 144 per 1,000 births. This compares unfavourably with the average of the ten preceding years of 125·2, and as there were no deaths from measles and only two from whooping cough, this high number of deaths must be regarded as most unsatisfactory.

APPENDICE.

The rates for the separate parishes compare with past figures as follows:—

	1915.	1914.	1913.	1899-1912.
St. Peter-Port	191	98	121	138
St. Sampson's	97	83	163	152
Vale	128	56	33	144
Castel	154	90	150	117
St. Saviour's	32	121	156	120
St. Pierre-du-Bois	227	168	200	154
Torteval	0	0	0	82
Forest	80	52	28	135
St. Martin's	111	104	111	109
St. Andrew's	151	111	45	104

The infantile death rates of England and Wales during 1915 were: England and Wales, 110; 97 Towns, including London, 117; 145 smaller Towns, 114; the whole country, less the towns, 98; London, 112.

It will be better, before criticising in detail the figures, to give the table of mortality for the year.

	Under 1 week.	Between 1 & 2 weeks	Between 2 & 3 weeks	Between 3 & 4 weeks	Tl. under 1 m'th.	1-3	8-6	6-9	9-12	Total.
Ricketts.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Epidemic Enteritis.	1	...	2	...	—	3	...	9	2	2
Influenza	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	...	1	—
Whooping Cough...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	...	—
Congenital Malfor-										
mation	1	...	1	...	—	—	2	...	1	...
Convulsions	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	...	1	...
Debility at Birth ...	4	...	1	...	—	1	...	6	...	—
Icterus Neonatorium —	1	...	—	—	1	...	2	...	—	—
Injury at Birth.....	1	...	—	—	—	1	...	—	—	—
Marasmus	2	...	1	...	2	...	5	...	7	...
Premature Birth ...	17	...	6	...	2	...	1	...	26	...
Pulmonary Atelec-										
tasis	1	...	—	—	—	—	1	...	—	—
Asphyxia	1	...	—	—	—	—	1	...	—	—
Gastritis.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	...	—	—
Intestinal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	...	2
Heart Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	...	—
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	...	2	...
Broncho Pneumonia —	1	...	—	—	—	1	...	1	...	—
Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	...	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	...	—	—
	28	13	4	3	48	34	16	10	5	113

Forty-eight of the deaths, or 42 per cent. of them, occurred during the first month of life, and 59, or 52 per cent. began their lives so handicapped by ante-natal conditions that they could not survive.

Surely such figures in such times as the present make sorrowful reading, particularly when it is remembered that the year was one of great prosperity here.

I must, as I did last year, again call attention to the exceedingly high death rate of St. Peter-in-the-Wood, viz., 227. Of the forty-four children born there during the year no less than ten of them died before completing the first year of life. Three died of Marasmus, five of Premature Birth, and one each of Bronchitis and Debility at birth. The attention of the Douzaine was called to the figures for 1914, namely 166, and an extract from my report dealing with the matter was brought to their notice.

The Voluntary Societies continues their good work to the best of their abilities, but most of the parishes are without any organisations which are concerned in this particular work.

The early notification of Births Act has not yet come into force here, although it has been passed by the Royal Court.

When it does become law, it is difficult to imagine how much improvement will be effected, if it is to be regarded as a Parochial matter only and not as a States' one. During the Franco-Prussian war the infantile mortality was low. In poor country districts such as are met with in Ireland and the Highlands of Scotland it is constantly low.

The horrors of war and the direst poverty cause mothers to bring up their children in the natural way, and the example of these devoted women might well be taken to heart by those who do not know what these dreadful conditions are, and yet disregard in so many cases the obvious duties of motherhood. Upon doctors and nurses rests the responsibility of urging mothers to accept these duties. Perhaps both fail in some measure, but I am sorry to say that the advice of the doctor is often unheeded, because so many nurses are strongly and unaccountably biased in favour of the artificial feeding of infants.

I believe the time will come when nurses who are licensed under "the Midwife's Act" and give such advice indiscriminately, will be considered unfit persons to practice their calling, and will be treated as such.

The future is to the nation which has the highest birth rate, and which takes the greatest care of the children, so that the highest percentage of them not only survive, but grow up to be vigorous citizens.

The lowest birth rate is found amongst the classes best able to bring up children, and the highest amongst those the least able to do so.

No sophistry will explain away these facts; they must be faced and remedies found for them.

The only possible way to do so seems to be to tax every man and woman, married or single, who has over a certain income and has no children to support. The money thus raised should be devoted to the improvement of the living conditions of those who have children.

At present a working man with a family finds it a difficult matter to secure any home to live in, however bad the conditions may be. Often rooms or houses are advertised to let with the proviso that there must be no children—and yet we deplore a high infantile death and a falling birth rate!

In the future the State must provide the poor classes with decent houses and with a wage or grant which will enable them to rear children successfully in conditions of decency and comfort.

It already provides them with free education and hospital treatment, and the bringing up of children is surely as much a duty as the educating of those who survive. Assistance should not only be given to the poorer classes, poverty being only a relative term, but to others whose needs are perhaps equally insistent, although not so obvious.

If it be realised, as it should be, that the raising of an Imperial race is an Imperial matter, no stigma of charity would be attached to State assistance in this respect. Our enemies will, in the future, I feel certain, face and successfully solve these problems, and if we do not do so, all the sacrifices we as a nation have made, the appalling amount of suffering and loss of the lives of our best and bravest will have been in vain; and in the future we shall have to face a yet more horrible war than the present one, and under more disadvantageous conditions.

The women of our race have, under abnormal conditions, done marvellous things, and it should be our prayer that, after the war is over, they will not fail us, but will take to heart the saying that "the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world."

The Board of Health has considered the advisability of starting a "Mothers' Clinic," for the education of expectant mothers, an institution which has been so successful in many parts of England, and I trust this will be an accomplished fact in the early part of the coming year.

MARRIAGES.

The number of marriages was 303, equal to a rate of 14.8 per 1,000.

This is above the average of the past six years, which was 287. Of these 200 took place in Church of England, 23 in Roman Catholic, 31 in Non-conformist Churches, and 49 at the Greffe Office.

Table II.

RETURN OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTERED DURING THE YEAR 1915.

BIRTHS.

PARISH LETTER:	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>E</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>G</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>K</i>	Tl.										
Males	140	...	68	...	51	...	21	...	20	...	20	...	7	...	13	...	34	...	18	...	392
Females	127	...	65	...	58	...	44	...	11	...	24	...	7	...	12	...	29	...	15	...	392
Totals	267	...	133	...	109	...	65	...	31	...	44	...	14	...	25	...	63	...	33	...	784

STILL BIRTHS.

Males	9	...	4	...	5	...	2	...	0	...	2	...	0	...	3	...	1	...	1	...	27
Females	8	...	3	...	7	...	3	...	2	...	0	...	2	...	0	...	5	...	3	...	33
Totals	17	...	7	...	12	...	5	...	2	...	2	...	2	...	3	...	6	...	4	...	60

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS.

15	...	3	...	7	...	6	...	1	..	5	...	0	...	0	...	2	...	1	...	40
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DEATHS.

General Diseases.

Diabetes.....	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	4
Graves's Disease	1	..	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	1
Myxœdeina	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	1
Pernicious Anaemia.....	2	...	-	...	-	...	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	3
Rheumatism.....	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	2
Rheumatoid Arthritis	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	1	...	-	...	2
Ricketts.....	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	1

Epidemic.

Diphtheria	2	...	-	..	-	..	-	..	-	..	-	..	-	..	-	..	-	..	-	...	2
Enteritis	12	...	-	..	-	..	1	...	-	..	-	..	-	..	-	..	1	...	2	...	16
Influenza	10	...	2	...	2	...	3	...	-	..	-	..	-	..	-	..	2	...	2	...	19
Whooping Cough.....	4	...	2	...	1	...	-	..	-	..	-	..	-	..	-	..	-	..	-	...	7

Infancy.

Congenital Malformation ..	2	...	1	...	2	...	-	..	-	..	-	..	-	..	-	..	-	..	-	...	5
Convulsions	5	...	1	...	2	...	1	...	-	..	-	..	-	..	-	..	1	...	-	...	10
Debility at Birth	1	...	-	..	-	..	1	...	-	..	1	...	-	..	1	...	2	...	1	..	7
Icterus Neonatorum	-	...	-	..	2	...	-	..	-	..	-	..	-	..	-	..	-	..	-	...	2
Injury at Birth	1	...	-	..	-	..	-	..	-	..	-	..	-	..	-	..	-	..	-	...	1
Marasmus	11	...	4	...	1	...	2	...	-	..	4	...	-	..	1	...	-	..	-	...	23
Premature Birth	9	...	1	...	5	...	4	...	1	...	5	...	-	..	-	..	2	...	1	...	28
Pulmonary Atelactasis ..	1	...	-	..	-	..	-	..	-	..	-	..	-	..	-	..	-	..	-	...	1

Carried forward

66 ... 12 ... 16 ... 14 ... 1 ... 11 ... 0 ... 2 ... 9 ... 4 ... 135

PARISH LETTER:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	K	Tl.
Brought forward	66	12	16	14	1	11	0	2	9	4	135

Old Age.

Senile Decay.....	41	18	9	7	5	2	-	-	8	5	95
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Infective.

Erysipelas	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	1	...	1
Phthisis.....	20	6	3	5	1	2	1	-	3	3	3	44
Tabes Mesenterica	-	...	-	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	1
Tetanus	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	1
Tuberculosis	1	...	-	...	-	1	...	-	...	-	1	3
Tuberculosis of Hip.....	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	1	...	1
Tubercular Meningitis	4	...	-	...	-	1	...	-	...	-	...	5

Intemperance.

Alcoholism	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	1
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Parturition.

Extra Uterine Gestation...	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	1
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Violence.

Asphyxia	-	...	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...
Burns	-	...	-	...	1	...	-	1	...	-	...	2
Drowning	4	...	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	1	...	6
Fall	1	...	1	...	2	...	-	...	-	...	-	4
Run Over	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	1
Suicide	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	1	...	-	...	2

Tumour.

Malignant	26	...	6	...	6	...	6	...	-	1	...	4	...	3	...	4	...	56
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Alimentary.

Appendicitis	2	...	-	...	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	3
Cirrhosis of Liver	-	...	-	...	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	1
Duodenal Ulcer	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	1
Gastritis	2	...	1	...	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	4
Gastric Hemorrhage.....	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	1
Hydatid of Liver	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	1
Intestines	2	...	1	...	-	...	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	4
Intestinal Obstruction.....	3	...	-	...	-	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	4
Liver	-	...	-	...	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	1	...	-	2

Carried forward

180 47 40 37 8 18 1 7 27 16 381

PARISH LETTER:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	K	Tl.
Brought forward	180	47	40	37	8	18	1	7	27	16	381

Circulatory.

Aneurysm	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	1
Angina Pectoris	2	...	-	...	1	...	-	...	-	...	3
Apoplexy	18	...	4	...	2	...	-	...	1	...	27
Atheroma	5	...	-	...	1	...	1	...	-	...	10
Dropsy	-	...	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	2
Gangrene	2	...	-	...	1	...	-	...	-	...	3
Heart Disease	26	...	3	...	7	...	6	...	5	...	63
Pericarditis	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	1
Reynaud's Disease	-	...	-	1	...	-	...	-	...	...	1
Thrombosis	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	1	...

Respiratory.

Asthma	-	...	-	2	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	2
Bronchitis	13	...	2	...	3	...	1	...	-	1	...	3
Broncho-Pneumonia	12	...	1	...	2	...	-	...	-	...	-	1
Emphyema	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	1
Pleurisy	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	1
Pneumonia	10	...	3	...	1	...	2	...	1	...	1	...

Septic.

Septicæmia	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	...	1
Ulcerative Endocarditis ...	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	1

Nervous.

Cerebral Tumour	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	...	1
Dementia	-	...	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	1
Disseminated Sclerosis ...	-	...	-	...	-	...	1	...	-	...	-	1
Epilepsy	1	...	1	...	1	...	-	...	1	...	-	4
Hydrocephalus	-	...	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	1
Tabes Dorsalis	1	...	-	...	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	2
Mania	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	1
Meningitis	4	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	4
Neuritis	-	...	-	...	-	...	1	...	-	...	-	1
Pseudo Hypertrophic	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	1	...
Paralysis	2	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	1	...	-	3
Paralysis Agitans	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	1	...	1

Urinary.

Nephritis	10	...	4	...	1	...	3	...	-	...	2	...	20
Prostatic Inflammation ...	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	1
Cystitis	2	...	-	1	...	2	...	-	...	-	...	-	5
Totals.....	298	..	68	..	62	..	54	..	17	..	25	..	3

298 .. 68 .. 62 .. 54 .. 17 .. 25 .. 3 .. 10 .. 48 .. 22 .. 607

Bodies washed ashore from

wreck of *St. Malo*..... 4 .. 1 .. 4 .. 2 .. 2 .. 3 .. - .. - .. - .. - .. 15

Table

s of ches.	A				B				C				D				E				
	ST. PETER-PORT.				ST. SAMPSON'S.				THE VALE.				CASTEL.				ST. SAVIOUR'S.				
AR.	Population estimated according to Census.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.		Population estimated according to Census.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.		Population estimated according to Census.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.		Population estimated according to Census.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.		Population estimated according to Census.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.		
in ...	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	
18162	5573	5082	2802	1062	352	3082	3082	1075	29	32	30	32	354	3157	3157	1075	29	32	30	32	
461	427	392	366	383	368	180	174	160	163	175	165	140	144	137	139	123	120	124	124	124	
302	268	275	257	240	242	77	64	75	93	66	64	101	65	60	68	62	55	47	47	47	
59	54	44	44	36	41	17	29	26	34	22	14	42	16	16	20	16	9	7	7	7	
.....	
18052	5952	5486	3082	1075	351	3082	3082	1075	28	25	32	32	321	73	73	11	28	32	32	32	
352	361	368	144	139	361	123	123	123	82	82	82	82	141	55	55	40	12	17	17	17	
351	256	242	65	68	41	62	62	62	78	78	78	78	177	80	80	40	12	17	17	17	
88	41	41	16	20	13	16	16	16	70	70	70	70	10	10	10	9	12	15	15	15	
.....	
18125	5952	5486	3157	1075	354	66	66	66	5	5	5	5	132	47	47	46	33	17	17	17	
354	239	132	124	124	239	50	50	50	11	11	11	11	11	47	47	46	1075	33	17	17	
267	5865	109	62	14	5865	133	68	13	5366	109	62	14	5366	3247	65	54	10	1085	31	17	1
298	160	62	15	15	160	74	23	23	5284	139	62	15	5284	2942	80	59	10	1068	30	15	3
51	51	51	51	51	51	74	23	23	5284	139	62	15	5284	2942	80	59	10	1068	30	15	3
.....	
17195	267	5865	109	14	5865	133	68	13	5366	109	62	14	5366	3247	65	54	10	1085	31	17	1
rate..	15.6		22.6																	28.5	
rate ..	17.7		11.5																	15.6	
tile death rate	191		97																	32	

III.

F

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I

K

Names of Parishes.	ST. PETER-IN-THE-WOOD.				TORTEVAL.				FOREST.				ST. MARTIN'S.				ST. ANDREW'S.							
	Population estimated according to Census.		Births registered.		Deaths at all ages.		Population estimated according to Census.		Births registered.		Deaths at all ages.		Population estimated according to Census.		Births registered.		Deaths at all ages.		Population estimated according to Census.		Births registered.		Deaths at all ages.	
YEAR.	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D
Column ...	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D
1903.....	1577				446				842				3201				1552				40			
1905.....	56	29	4		22	10	0		19	15	0		86	43	10		42				22			7
1906.....	60	25	9		6	9	12		26	15	6		107	45	13		54				11			1
1907.....	60	16	8		20	6	1		32	17	5		97	39	8		43				21			4
1908.....	44	29	8		14	4	12		27	11	4		78	38	8		43				18			2
1909.....	41	13	6		14	9	1		38	17	3		79	34	6		41				10			5
1910.....	49	30	8		14	4	1		32	17	2		81	40	5		41				15			4
1911 Census	1612	49	24	11	499	13	6	4	910	28	15	4	3436	73	64	20	1750	37	18	3				
1912.....	53	16	6		12	5	0		28	12	1		65	44	7		57				20			5
1913.....	45	25	9		13	10	0		35	10	1		63	33	7		44				14			2
1914.....	1612	42	32	7	499	7	4	0	910	19	12	1	3436	67	35	7	1750	36	16	4				
Average of 10 years to 1914.	1595	49	23	7	473	13	6	1	876	28	14	2	3329	79	41	9	1649	43	16	3				
1915.....	1616	44	25	10	502	14	3	0	908	25	10	2	3450	63	48	7	1766	33	22	5				
Birth rate.....	27.2				27.8				27.5				18.2				18.6							
Death rate	15.4				6				11.0				14.0				12.4							
Infantile death rate	227				0				80				111				151							

Table IV.

CAUSE OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH OF THE DEATHS REGISTERED
DURING THE YEAR 1915.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	WHOLE ISLAND.						Over 65.	Total.
	Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-5.	5-15.	15-25.	25 to 65.		
<i>General Diseases.</i>								
Diabetes	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3 ... 4
Graves' Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	— ... 1
Myxoedema	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 ... 1
Pernicious Anæmia	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2 ... 3
Rheumatism	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1 ... 2
Rheumatoid Arthritis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2 ... 2
Ricketts	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	— ... 1
<i>Epidemic.</i>								
Diphtheria	—	—	—	1	...	1	—	— ... 2
Enteritis	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	— ... 16
Influenza	3	...	1	...	1	...	1	6 ... 6 ... 19
Whooping Cough	2	...	4	...	1	...	—	— ... 7
<i>Infancy.</i>								
Congenital Malformation.	4	...	1	...	—	—	—	— ... 5
Convulsions	7	...	3	...	—	—	—	— ... 10
Debility at Birth	7	...	—	—	—	—	—	— ... 7
Icterus Neonatorum	2	...	—	—	—	—	—	— ... 2
Injury at Birth	1	...	—	—	—	—	—	— ... 1
Marasmus	18	...	5	...	—	—	—	— ... 23
Premature Birth	28	...	—	—	—	—	—	— ... 28
Pulmonary Atelectaris ...	1	...	—	—	—	—	—	— ... 1
<i>Old Age.</i>								
Senile Decay	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	94 ... 95
<i>Infective.</i>								
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	— ... 1
Phthisis	—	—	—	—	1	...	10	32 ... 1 ... 44
General Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	1	...	1	— ... 3
Tabes Mesenterica	—	—	—	1	...	—	—	— ... 1
Tuberculosis of Hip	—	—	—	—	—	1	...	— ... 1
Tubercular Meningitis ...	—	—	—	—	4	...	1	— ... 5
Tetanus	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	— ... 1
Carried forward	90	..	15	...	3	...	9	14 ... 44 ... 111 ... 286

CAUSE OF DEATH.	WHOLE ISLAND.						Over 65.	Total.
	Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-5	5-15	15-25	25 to 65		
Brought forward	90	15	3	9	14	44	111	286
<i>Intemperance.</i>								
Alcoholism	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
<i>Parturition.</i>								
Extra Uterine Gestation	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
<i>Violence.</i>								
Asphyxia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Burns	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
Drowning	—	—	—	2	—	3	1	6
Fall	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	4
Run over	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Suicide	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
<i>Tumour.</i>								
Malignant	—	—	—	—	—	1	29	26
<i>Alimentary.</i>								
Appendicitis	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	3
Cirrhosis of Liver	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Duodenal Ulcer	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Gastritis	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	4
Gastric Hemorrhage	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Hydatid of Liver	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Intestines	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	4
Intestinal Obstruction	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	4
Liver	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
<i>Circulatory.</i>								
Aneurysm	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Angina Pectoris	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
Apoplexy	—	—	—	—	—	10	17	27
Dropsy	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Gangrene	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3
Heart Disease	1	—	—	—	—	24	38	63
Pericarditis	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Reynaud's Disease	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Thrombosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Atheroma	—	—	—	—	—	2	8	10
Carried forward	96	16	5	15	18	131	213	494

CAUSE OF DEATH.	WHOLE ISLAND.						Total.	
	Under 1 yr.	1-2.	2-5.	5-15.	15-25.	25 to 65.		
Brought forward.....	96	16	5	15	18	131	213	494

Respiratory.

Asthma	—	...	—	...	—	...	1	...	1	...	2			
Bronchitis	6	...	4	...	—	...	—	4	...	10	...	24		
Broncho-Pneumonia	7	...	6	...	1	...	1	...	—	...	16			
Empyema	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	1	...	—	...	1		
Pleurisy	—	...	—	...	—	...	1	...	—	...	—	1		
Pneumonia	3	...	2	...	3	...	—	2	...	3	...	7	...	20

Septic.

Ulcerative Endocarditis ...	—	...	—	...	—	..	1	...	—	...	—	1	...	2
-----------------------------	---	-----	---	-----	---	----	---	-----	---	-----	---	---	-----	---

Nervous.

Cerebral Tumour	—	...	—	...	—	..	—	...	1	...	—	...	1	
Dementia.....	—	...	—	...	—	..	—	...	1	...	—	...	1	
Disseminated Sclerosis ...	—	...	—	...	—	..	—	...	1	...	—	...	1	
Epilepsy	—	...	—	...	—	..	—	...	1	...	—	...	4	
Tabes Dorsalis	—	...	—	...	—	..	—	...	—	2	...	2		
Hydrocephalus	—	...	—	...	—	..	—	...	1	...	—	...	1	
Mania	—	...	—	...	—	..	—	...	—	1	...	1		
Pseudo-Hypertrophic														
Paralysis	—	...	—	...	—	..	—	...	1	...	—	...	1	
Meningitis	1	...	—	...	—	..	—	...	1	...	1	..	4	
Neuritis	—	...	—	...	—	..	—	...	1	...	—	...	1	
Paralysis Agitans	—	...	—	...	—	..	—	...	—	1	...	1		
Paralysis	—	...	—	...	—	..	—	...	—	1	...	2	...	3

Urinary.

Nephritis.....	—	...	—	...	1	..	—	...	—	10	...	9	...	20
Cystitis	—	...	—	...	—	..	—	...	—	2	...	3	...	5
Prostatic Inflammation...	—	...	—	...	—	..	—	...	—	—	...	1	...	1

Totals 113 ... 28 ... 10 ... 20 ... 22 ... 162 ... 252 ... 607

Number of persons 80 years and over, of which 19 were over 90, 108 or 18 per cent. of the total.

KING EDWARD SANATORIUM.

During the year 101 cases were dealt with by the Board of Health. Of this number only six were isolated at home, the remaining 95 being treated at the Sanatorium. There was one death at home, from Diphtheria, and three at the Sanatorium, one each from Phthisis, Diphtheria, and Meningitis. Twenty doubtful cases were admitted—Militiamen who suffered from Influenza with severe throat symptoms, and in whom the diagnosis was at first uncertain. The garrison has enjoyed a truly remarkable degree of immunity from infectious disease since the commencement of the war. In this period of seventeen months no case of any infectious disease has occurred amongst the Imperial troops, and only two amongst the Militia.

In the early part of the year the War Office informed the Board of Health that they desired to transfer to their care for treatment all cases of infectious disease—notifiable and non-notifiable—which might occur amongst the military population.

Realising that the accommodation provided for civil cases would prove insufficient for this purpose, they offered to purchase lands and erect huts adjoining the Sanatorium, as had been their custom in England. The expense of such a course would have been great, as drainage, water supply, electric cables would have had to be provided, and the purchase of the land, which presented some difficulties, would have absorbed a considerable sum of money before the foundations of the buildings were commenced. The grounds would have to be laid out and fencing provided. The buildings would have been difficult to administer, as the administration block would have been in the far corner; the sub-division of the wards would have been a difficult matter, and finally, with such an ambitious scheme, the delay in carrying it out might have been so great that it would not have been completed until the necessity for it had gone by, and thus other arrangements would have had to be hastily made in case of emergency. Finally, at the end of the war, or when no longer required, those temporary buildings would have had to be taken down and removed, as the Board would not have been prepared to recommend their purchase to the States. It appeared to me that the wisest plan would be to suggest to the Board that the War Office should lease "Les Touilletts," a large house near, which was then vacant, and the structure of which was convenient for the purpose suggested, and could easily be administered from the Sanatorium.

After some delay this plan was accepted, and all capital expenditure was thus avoided, the only liability incurred being the rent of the house.

In the unlikely event of this accommodation being overtaxed, all arrangements have been made to extend it as required, the Board of Health undertaking all responsibility in this connection in return for a fixed payment per patient per week.

Fortunately there has been no necessity to utilize this auxiliary accommodation, as there has been ample room for all cases and to spare at the Sanatorium.

Table V.

CASES TREATED AT THE SANATORIUM AND AT HOME, 1915.

	St. Peter-Port.	St. Sampson's.	Vale.	Castel.	St. Saviour's.	St. Peter-in-the-Wood.	Torteval.	Forest.	St. Martin's.	St. Andrew's.	Total.
DIPHTHERIA.											
At the Sanatorium ...	11	4	1	5	0	3	0	0	1	0	25
At Home	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Total	13	4	1	6	0	3	0	0	1	0	28
SCARLET FEVER.											
At the Sanatorium ...	15	8	6	1	0	1	0	0	5	2	38
At Home	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Total	16	8	7	1	1	1	0	0	5	2	41
Total											138

Table VI.

CASES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO AGES FOR 1915.

	Under 1 year.	2-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-25	26 and over.	Tl.
DIPHTHERIA	-	6	10	3	1	1	7	28
SCARLET FEVER	-	13	11	11	2	2	2	41
MENINGITIS	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
DOUBTFUL	-	-	-	1	4	12	3	20
MEASLES	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
PHTHISIS	-	-	-	-	1	3	6	10
Total.....	-	19	21	15	9	18	19	101

Table VII.

NON-NOTIFIABLE CASES FOR 1915 REMOVED TO THE SANATORIUM.

Parishes.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Tl.										
St. Peter-Port	-	...	1	...	-	...	-	...	1	...	2	...	3	...	1	...	-	...	8				
St. Sampson's	-	...	-	...	1	...	1	...	-	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	3				
Vale	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	1	...	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	2				
Castel	1	...	6	...	-	...	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	8				
St. Saviour's	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	0				
St. Peter-in-the-Wood ..	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	0				
Torteval	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	0				
Forest	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	0				
St. Martin's	2	...	4	...	1	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	-	...	7				
St. Andrew's	-	...	-	...	-	...	1	...	-	1	...	-	2	...	-	...	-	...	4				
Total	3	...	11	...	1	...	2	...	2	...	0	...	4	...	3	...	5	...	1	...	0	...	32

MEASLES.

Only one case of measles occurred, a Militiaman, one of the Alderney contingent, who came here in the incubation stage of the disease, and was removed from the Camp Hospital.

Luckily for us no further cases followed here, but when the Contingent arrived in England other cases appeared amongst them.

The disease had been very prevalent both in England and Alderney, so that it is remarkable that no outbreak took place here, particularly as the usual periodicity of it made it probable that it would occur.

So many deaths are caused amongst young children by it, particularly in those under 5 years of age, and so many cases have occurred amongst soldiers since the war began, the outbreaks in some cases seriously restricting the movements of troops, that the English authorities at the end of the year decided to add it to the list of Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

The matter was considered by the Board of Health, but the result of their deliberations will be dealt with in the report for 1916.

CEREBRO-SPIRAL MENINGITIS.

Fortunately no case of this dread disease occurred.

One case was admitted as being highly suspicious, and died of Meningitis of Influenzal origin.

DIPHTHERIA.

There were 28 cases of this disease notified, of which 25 were isolated at the Sanatorium. One of these cases proved fatal, as did one of the home ones, which died suddenly after a short illness without having been seen by a doctor.

There were no cases reported from St. Saviour's, Torteval, Forest or St. Andrew's.

Table VIII.
DIPHTHERIA FOR 1915.

SCARLET FEVER

Forty-one cases were notified during the year. There were no deaths. Thirty-eight of the cases were isolated at the Sanatorium. The cases were fairly evenly distributed over the year, and occurred in all the parishes with the exception of Torteval and the Forest.

Table IX.
SCABBLETT FEVER FOR 1915

Parishes.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Tl.
St. Peter-Port	2	2	4	1	1	2	1	-	2	1	-	-	16
St. Sampson's.....	-	1	1	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	2	8
Vale.....	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	7
Castel	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
St. Saviour's	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
St. Peter-in-the-Wood ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
Torteval	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Forest	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
St. Martin's.....	-	-	-	..	-	1	-	-	-	4	-	-	5
St. Andrew's	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
 Total	4	4	7	1	2	6	2	0	8	1	3	3	14

TYPHOID FEVER.

No case of Typhoid or Para-Typhoid fever occurred during 1915.

This is an eminently satisfactory record, particularly when the large number of troops stationed here is considered. Amongst these troops vaccination against Typhoid fever has been almost universal, as it has been in all the contending armies.

The results have fully justified the sanguine hopes expected from it, as cases of this fever have been very few in number amongst the armies in the field.

Without this vaccination under the very trying conditions of trench warfare, probably many thousands, if not hundreds of thousands of cases of it, would have occurred. Its comparative absence has added many Army Corps to the fighting strength of our Army.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of deaths due to this disease was 54, of which 44 were cases of Pulmonary Phthisis. The respective rates per 1,000 are 1.3 and 1.07.

These are slightly higher than last year, but the mortality from it fortunately tends to show a marked decrease from what it was ten or fifteen years ago. The number of notifications received was 26. Ten patients were admitted to the Sanatorium during the summer and autumn months. The first a man invalidated from the Navy in an early stage quite recovered his health after a stay of sixty-seven days, and was able to work afterwards in a foundry and then take up munition work. A French soldier discharged himself after twenty-one days, as he would not put up with the required restrictions. One patient in an advanced stage died of Broncho Pneumonia. Two girls in an early stage were discharged improved. One man and one woman showed no improvement, two men some improvement, and one woman considerable and lasting improvement. As this was the first year in which such patients were admitted, there was a little difficulty in getting hold of patients in an early stage; but I do not think this will be experienced in the future, and one may then hope for better results.

Unfortunately some of these patients had to be sent home just as they were beginning to benefit, as their beds were required for other cases.

Some special accommodation for cases of Phthisis so that this would not happen is urgently needed, but the present times are not propitious for the provision of it.

DISINFECTION FOR 1915.

Adults and Children's Clothing.....	1,804
Blankets, Counterpanes and Shirts	936
Bolsters and Pillows	485
Feather Beds	82
Floor Coverings	221
Mattresses.....	228
Sundry Articles	883
Rooms for Notifiable Diseases	92
Rooms for Phthisis	63
Rooms for Non-notifiable Diseases	21
Rooms and Wards at the Sanatorium	15
Cow Sheds, disinfected	12
Military Blankets.....	1,799
Military Mattresses	1,594
Military Pillows	199
<hr/>	
Houses, visited and revisited	220
Cow Sheds do. do.	36

SCHOOL INSPECTION.

One hundred and sixty-nine visits were paid to various schools. It was not necessary to close any school or class on account of the incidence of infectious disease.

Towards the end of the year neglected children were more numerous than usual, and in a few instances the mothers—the fathers being at the Front—required firm and constant pressure before any improvement was effected. Such cases were brought to the notice of the A.A. and Q.M.G. and the Constables, and were almost entirely confined to the Town parish.

It is greatly to be regretted that now when the provision of boots and stockings must be such a strain on the finances of the poorer classes, that more children do not go about with bare feet.

The summer is the time to start this practice which greatly benefits the health of the average child. When once the beginning has been made the child will become acclimatized and able and willing to still go about barefooted, even in very cold weather. There is one proviso, however, the child must be well fed.

During last winter I saw many badly fed children with boots so bad that their feet were often constantly sodden with wet, and stockings with only parts of the feet of them left. The parents of these children were rightly considered to have neglected them, and measures were taken to make them provide watertight boots.

If my suggestion be generally adopted, the money spent now upon boots and stockings which can be so badly afforded, can be spent upon food instead. Parents will then find their children happier and healthier, and with much less tendency to catch cold than before. In the big towns in Scotland, a large number of the children go barefooted, yet they grow up to be strong and vigorous.

We are all proud of the splendid physique of the men of the Royal Navy. They do not look as if they were delicate or suffered from cold, yet no matter what the weather may be, these magnificent specimens of manhood, who are provided with the best of clothing, usually go about their work with bare feet.

I am sure that the Primary School teachers can be of great help in this matter. Indeed, without their co-operation but little can be done, so great is their influence.

No fresh areas have received the benefit of a system of refuse collection in 1915, but the Town parish has greatly improved its service, and but few complaints with regard to it are now received.

St. Sampson's parish appears also to be well served in this matter. The destruction of all refuse sent to the works of the Guernsey Railway Company is carried out in a most satisfactory manner, as indeed has always been the case.

Thirty-five visits to cow-sheds were paid during the year. In several instances improvements were ordered and carried out at the instigation of the Supervisor.

Three hundred and ninety-one bacteriological examinations were made in the States Laboratory. These included tests for the organisms causing Diphtheria, Tuberculosis, Gonorrhœa, Syphilis, Anthrax, Enteric Fever, and Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.

FOOD INSPECTION.

Five samples of butter and nine of milk were submitted for analysis during the year. All the former were of satisfactory quality. One sample of milk was found to be adulterated by the addition of over 20 per cent. of water. The

farmer was produced before the Police Court and fined £2 and costs, and as a result he gave up keeping cows.

Another sample was found to contain Boracic Acid, which had been added as a preservative. As the Board of Health were informed that this was a common practice, and one which was not generally thought to be contrary to law, the farmer was cautioned, and notices were inserted in the papers calling attention to the fact that the addition of preservatives to milk was illegal.

A conference, with a deputation of the Royal Guernsey Agricultural Society, tended to show that such a practice was not common locally, and that even in the hottest weather milk would keep sweet for at least 36 hours, if it were properly cooled as soon as it was drawn from the cow. This fact should be widely known. As milk is, or should be, in many cases the sole food of babies artificially reared, the addition of such preservatives might set up a fatal enteritis, and where adults are concerned the addition of preservatives to many other articles of food might also cause dyspeptic and intestinal symptoms. Such adulteration should therefore be rigorously suppressed.

A proposition was brought before the States in December to grant the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector the right of entry to both private properties and business premises during certain hours, if conditions prejudicial to health were suspected to exist in them. Such powers have been given to these officials in England for many years.

Although it was not proposed to interfere with the existing powers of the Constables and Douzaines of the various parishes as Sanitary Authorities, so much opposition was raised to the proposals that they were withdrawn, to be subsequently brought forward in another form.

It will be remembered that the States had, after years of deliberation, decided to purchase the undertaking of the Guernsey Water Company, and the Supervisor was deputed to arrange the terms of purchase with the Company. He however reported that he had been unable to accept the conditions of purchase put forward by the Company; the decision of the States was therefore cancelled.

“The Children’s Act,” after a full discussion, was adopted by the States, and the draft forwarded to the Privy Council for their sanction.

The Board of Health sent letters to the Douzaines of St. Martin’s and the Vale parishes, asking them to institute a system for the collection and destruc-

tion of household refuse, and the construction of a system of drainage for the more crowded parts of these parishes.

It was pointed out that the former could be taken in hand at once, but that the latter suggestion would perhaps require a more lengthy consideration. If plans for it were prepared and the schemes ready to be put in operation, the carrying out of the works might be deferred until the conclusion of the war, when men were likely to be out of employment, and thus a double purpose would be served.

At the end of the year an influentially signed Requête was presented to the States, pointing out the hardships and delays that were experienced by the poorer classes, under the present Poor-Law system, in obtaining medical attendance, and the fact that in many parishes no arrangements were made for the medical attendance of poor women during their confinements.

The present disadvantages were fully realised by the States, who received the Requête in a sympathetic manner, and appointed a Committee to study this somewhat difficult question, and issue a report without delay.

The Committee of Public Safety have continued their useful work as regards public buildings during the year, but it is to be regretted that their jurisdiction did not embrace the proper ventilation of such buildings. The aim of ventilation should be to change the air in them as freely as possible without causing draughts, and to cause, as far as practicable, the air inside them to be as fresh as the outside air.

Places of worship and "picture palaces" are the worst buildings in this respect, and the vitiated and foul air in them is a source of disease and distress to the people who frequent them. This should not be, as the efficient ventilation of any building is possible by the utilization of the normal movements of air, if only they be carefully studied. Pure air is just as important as pure food and pure water.

When the war is over, we all believe that there will be a quickened sense of religious feeling, not only amongst the community generally, but amongst the men returning from the Front, who have for long periods been face to face with death in its sudden and violent forms. These brave men owe the good health they have as a rule fortunately enjoyed to their having been night and day in the open air. We who have stayed at home in safety ought to ensure that they are not prevented from attending places of worship by the discomforts and dangers of the highly vitiated air so often to be found in them.

During the year the control of the apparatus which has manufactured that very efficacious disinfectant known as "Thalassol" has been under the control of the Supervisor, and it has been sold to the public at a moderate price. 1,364 gallons of it have been disposed of, but the plant has not been worked up to its full capacity.

Certain suggestions were put forward by the Supervisor, in which the amounts of it to be used by Public Authorities were carefully considered.

The States, however, rejected the scheme, and decided that the working of the plant was to be handed over to the Board of Health, and the disinfectant supplied without charge in the public interest. In my opinion this was a wise decision.

It has often been said that because we did not prepare for war, it is all the more important that we should make preparations for the coming peace, which we all so fervently look forward to.

We shall not have to face the many problems which will then confront the people of England, the chief of which will be the extraordinary extension of the employment of women, the consequences thereof, and the abnormal rise in wages: but the community must be prepared to deal with many changes in our social life.

I feel that the present time is one for action, not words, and I cannot therefore present reports such as I would hope to do under normal conditions.

HY. DRAPER BISHOP, M.D., M.O.H.